

**REMARKS**

This Preliminary Amendment is filed in order to facilitate processing of the above identified application.

As indicated above, claims 1 and 5 have been amended in order to make explicit what is implicit in the claims. The amendment is unrelated to a statutory requirement for patentability. Claim 6 has been amended to correct a typographical error. The amendment is unrelated to a statutory requirement for patentability and does not narrow the literal scope of the claims.

Claims 1 and 5 claim an image pick-up device in which an image pick-up device picks up an image signal with a varied frame rate. A frame rate conversion means/portion converts a frame rate of a second image signal, supplied from an external device, to the output frame rate of a first image signal generated from the variable frame rate pick-up image signal. Thus, a variable frame rate image pick-up device can accept an external input video signal whose frame rate is different from the output frame rate of the pick-up device.

*Bean, et al.* only discloses that the output frame rate corresponds to the input frame rate. Nothing in *Bean, et al.* shows, teaches or suggests (a) a second image signal supplied from an external device and (b) converting a frame rate of the (external) second image signal to the output frame rate of an input/captured first image signal as claimed in claims 1 and 5.

Additionally, *Tonomura, et al.* merely discloses how to record at a first speed and reproduce the recorded signal at a second speed in order to show slow motion. Nothing in *Tonomura, et al.* shows, teaches or suggests converting a frame rate of a second image signal supplied from an external device into an output frame rate of a captured/input first image signal as claimed in claims 1 and 5.

Since nothing in *Bean, et al.* or *Tonomura, et al.* show, teach or suggest (a) a second image signal supplied from an external device and (b) converting the frame rate of the second image signal from the external device into the output frame rate of the input/captured first image signal as claimed in claims 1 and 5, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Thus, it now appears that the application is in condition for a reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact, by telephone, the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 05-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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